US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

Planning Division

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Date: OCT 2 0 2005

Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement
Flood Damage Reduction Project
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District has prepared a Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the potential environmental effects of an array of alternative plans based on reducing flood damages in Bloomsburg along Fishing Creek and the Susquehanna River. USACE is making the Final Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS available to the public through this letter and a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register.

The recommended flood damage reduction plan is to provide Agnes (440-year) level protection from Susquehanna River flooding and 100-year level of protection from Fishing Creek flooding. The recommended plan consists of approximately 17,000 linear feet of levee/floodwall systems with fourteen drainage structures, and nine closure structures, six of which incorporate limited road raisings. The alignment of the line of protection was refined based on physical, environmental, and economic criteria.

The project consists of a system of earthen levees, mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) floodwalls, concrete floodwalls, railroad and road closure structures and roadway relocations to provide ramps over the line of protection. Earthen levees are proposed for the majority of the line of protection, though MSE walls will be required along portions of Fishing Creek in both Bloomsburg and Fernville and a concrete floodwall (H-Pile wall) will be required along portions of Fishing Creek in Bloomsburg. Limited riprap will be used to protect the steep banks along the lower project reaches along Fishing Creek.

The primary water resources problem along the Susquehanna River at Bloomsburg is recurrent flooding. Flood damages are attributable to flooding from the Susquehanna River and along Fishing Creek. Past flood events have resulted in extensive damages to structures and their contents and have threatened public safety. Extensive portions of the Bloomsburg study area are within the 500-year floodplain of the Susquehanna River and Fishing Creek. The 500-year floodplain includes approximately 525 residential structures, and 75 businesses and local government buildings.

The Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS were released for a 45-day public review and comment period via a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register by the U. S.

Environmental Protection Agency on May 13, 2005 (70 FR 25567). A public hearing was held on the project at the Town's Fire Hall on Thursday, June 16, 2005. After the public comment period ended on June 27, 2005, USACE considered all comments received. Substantive comments have been addressed in the Final Report and EIS.

To obtain copies of the Final Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS, contact Mr. Jeff Trulick at (410) 962-6715, write to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Attn: Jeff Trulick, CENAB-PL-P, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715, or email jeff.trulick@usace.army.mil.

You may also view the Final Report and EIS and related information on our web page at http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/publications/non-reg_pub.htm.

USACE has also distributed copies of the Final Integrated Report and EIS to appropriate members of Congress, State and local government officials, Federal agencies, and other interested parties. Copies are available for public review at the following locations:

(1) Bloomsburg Public Library, 225 Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA, 17815

(2) Bloomsburg University Library, 400 E. Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

A Record of Decision may be signed no sooner than 30 days after publication of the notice in the Federal Register, as stated in 40 CFR 1506.10(b)(2).

for Amy M. Guise
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Planning Division
Baltimore District